

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4905  
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMCONSUL BELFAST

C O N F I D E N T I A L DUBLIN 1042

E.O. 11652: XGDS

TAGS: PBOR, EI

SUBJ: ANOTHER "BRITISH SPY" CASE

1. LEAD NEWS ITEM IN DUBLIN PAPERS PAST FEW DAYS HAS BEEN TRAIL AND CONVICTION OF TWO ENGLISH BROTHERS, KENNETH AND KEITH LITTLEJOHN. THEY DREW SENTENCES OF 20 AND 15 YEARS FOR ROBBING 67,000 POUNDS FROM DUBLIN BANK. ENGLISH AUTHORITIES APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN EXTREMELY COOPERATIVE. BRITISH POLICE HAD WARNED IRISH COUNTER-PARTS THAT LITTLEJOHNS NEEDED TO BE WATCHED. THEN, AFTER ROBBERY, BRITISH EXTRADITED BROTHERS TO IRELAND. DURING DUBLIN TRIAL, HOWEVER, BROTHERS CLAIMED THEY HAD BEEN WORKING FOR BRITISH INTELLIGENCE WITH OBJECT OF INFILTRATING IRA AND CARRYING OUT ACTIONS THAT WOULD DISCREDIT IT--SUCH AS ROBBING BANKS. TWO DISCLOSURES GAVE SUBSTANCE TO SOME OF CLAIMS. FIRST, IT TURNED OUT THAT A RANKING OFFICIAL AT BRITISH MINISTRY OF DEFENSE HAS GRANTED AN INTERVIEW TO ONE OF LITTLEJOHN BROTHERS. SECOND, BRITISH ASKED IRISH TO HOLD TRAIL "IN CAMERA," EXCLUDING PRESS AND PUBLIC (GOI REFUSED). WITH THESE DETAILS TO GO ON, JOURNALISTS DID MANY SPECULATIVE STORIES.

2. ON AUG 6, MEDIA CARRIED OFFICIAL BRITISH STATEMENT  
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THAT HMG HAD NEVER AUTHORIZED OR CONDONED ANY CRIMINAL

OFFENSES. SENIOR DEFENSE MINISTRY OFFICIAL HAD, HOWEVER, MET ONE LITTLEJOHN AND TOLD HIM THAT HMG WOULD BE PREPARED TO RECEIVE INFO OBTAINED ABOUT IRA ACTIVITIES. STATEMENT ADDED THAT THERE WAS NO CONNECTION BETWEEN THE LITTLEJOHNS AND ANOTHER ENGLISHMAN, JOHN WYMAN, WHO HAD EARLIER BEEN SENTENCED FOR SUBORNING IRISH POLICE (DUBLIN 1464, DEC 2, 1972).

3. BRITISH STATEMENT HAS NOT SATISFIED NEWSPAPERS, WHO THINK THEY DETECT PUBLIC DEMAND FOR MORE INFO AND MORE ACTION BY IRISH GOVT. MOST SERIOUS LINE OF SPECULATION IS THAT BRITISH AGENTS MAY HAVE BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR DUBLIN BOMBINGS OF LAST DECEMBER, WHICH HAVE NEVER BEEN SOLVED. PROPONENTS ARGUE THAT EXPLOSIONS WERE WELL TIMED TO BENEFIT BRITISH AND DAMAGE IRA, WHICH IS TRUE ENOUGH. SO FAR, THIS LINE IS APPARENTLY BEING PUSHED ONLY BY EXTREMISTS, SUCH AS DEPUTY NEIL BLANEY AND IRA. THERE MAY BE SOME IMPACT ON IRISH PUBLIC, HOWEVER, WHICH HAS BEEN AMPLY EXPOSED TO JAMES BOND MOVIES. EVEN SERIOUS JOURNALISTS ARE NOTING THAT THREE BRITISH AGENTS (LITTLEJOHNS AND WYMAN) HAVE BEEN DISCOVERED AND ASKING HOW MANY MORE ARE STILL OPERATING.

4. GOI HAS ACKNOWLEDGED ONLY THAT IT HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH BRITISH "THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS." PENDING COURT APPEAL, LITTLEJOHN CASE IS STILL "SUB JUDICE," AND GOI FEELS INHIBITED FROM FURTHER COMMENT. "IRISH TIMES" EDITORIAL SAYS: "THERE IS ALSO A BELIEF IN LONDON, ACCORDING TO OUR CORRESPONDENTS THERE, THAT THE IRISH GOVT IS TAKING A 'RELAXED' ATTITUDE. THIS WOULD SEEM TO BE CONFIRMED BY THE RATHER VAGUE, FLUFFY SOUNDS COMING FROM OFFICIAL CIRCLES HERE. THIS REACTION MAY SUIT THE BRITISH; IT MAY NOT SUIT THE IRISH PUBLIC."

5. COMMENT: FROM INFO AVAILABLE, CASE DOES NOT SEEM ESPECIALLY PUZZLING. IRA HERE IS DIFFICULT TO PENETRATE BY INTELLIGENCE SOURCES, AS MOST SENIOR IRA OFFICERS ARE HIGHLY MOTIVATED. AS FAR AS WE KNOW, THE ONLY EFFECTIVE "PENETRATION" WAS BY MARIA MACGUIRE, AN ERRATIC IRISH GIRL WHO WAS APPARENTLY NOT IN EMPLOY OF ANYONE AT THE CONFIDENTIAL

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TIME (DUBLIN 1046, SEPT 11, 1972). BRITISH CLEARLY HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE THEY NEED TO KNOW ABOUT ACTIVITIES OF IRA LEADERS IN REPUBLIC. UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES, IT WOULD NOT BE SURPRISING IF BRITISH SECURITY OFFICIALS EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS RECEIVE INFO EVEN FROM SUCH UNSAVORY CHARACTERS AS LITTLEJOHN BROTHERS.

6 THERE ARE, HOWEVER, TOO MANY COLORFUL DETAILS AND

INTERESTING COINCIDENCES FOR CASE TO DIE QUIETLY. IT  
IS PROVING AN EMBARRASSMENT TO GOI AND PROPAGANDA BOON  
TO ULTRA-REPUBLICANS. MOORE

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